THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) After consideration of the proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited by Steel Authority of India Limited, the Government of India have advised the Karnataka Government that the viability of the plant depends upon an assured supply of power throughout the year and fixing a reasonable tariff for the power together with certain other concessions. Mere transfer of ownership to the Government of India would not solve this basic problem.

Demonstration at TV Centre Bangalore

2560. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Karnataka demonstrated at the Bangalore TV Centre on 22nd February, 1988;

(b) if so what are the reasons therefor together with the demands of the people of Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government propose to concede their demands if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) On 21-2-88, demonstrations were held before Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore by Karnataka Writers' and Artists' Guild. Main demands of Guild were increase in Kannada programme with immediate effect; telecast of Kannada films on Sundays instead of Saturdays; telecast of regional news bulletins in place of national news bulletin in Hindi; and recruitment of Kannadigas against the various posts at the Kendra.

(c) A full-fledged TV studio centre has already been commissioned at Bangalore on 1-2-88 for the production of more regional language programmes. It has been decided that w.e.f. 18-3-88 Doordarshan Kendra Bangalore will commence its transmission from 1830 hours and will ordinate its programmes mainly in Kannada language. The Kendra will join national programme at 8-40 p.m As regards telecast of Kannada feature films on Sundays instead of Saturdays and telecast of regional news bulletin in place of national news bulletin in Hindi, no change in the present arrangements is possible. As regards recruitment of Kannadigas appointment to various posts is done strictly on the basis of Recruitment Rules which do not provide for any reservation on the basis of region

Drug abuse in the country

2561. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had recently adopted a three pronged strategy to counter the growing problem of drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy;

(c) whether the Centre has directed the State Governments to follow the strategy; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the State Governments in this regard and to what extent the menace of drug abuse in the country is likely to be wiped out as a result of adopting the strategy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) and (b) The Government has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to counter the problem of drug abuse which includes measures for curbing illicit trafficking treating addicts through motivation, counselling treatment and rehabilitaion and awareness education and training programme to curb increasing demand.